February 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, I sent a letter to all families regarding changes to our safety drill preparations for active shooter/violent intruder situations. During the first semester of this school year, administrators, teachers and school Crisis Teams were trained by the Oakland County Sheriff’s department in Options Based Safety protocols. These protocols are also known as Run-Hide-Fight or ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate).

Different from historic traditional lockdown drills (where classrooms were locked and secured until law enforcement could arrive) Options Based approaches rely on timely and accurate information to decide which option is best to keep students and staff safe. Options can include evacuation from the school, enhanced lockdown of classrooms with barricading measures, or countering if necessary.

During the month of March, all students in Walled Lake Schools will receive education about these new safety procedures. Building principals will be sending detailed information about your child’s specific school or program.

As required by law, we conduct annual safety drills for fire, tornado, and lockdown/active shooter scenarios. This spring, schools will conduct two Options Based “read only” drills where teachers will read a scenario to students and discuss options within the classroom. More specific information will be coming from your child’s school.

We will NOT be conducting active shooter simulations at any of our schools.

Student and staff safety are our first priority and we are excited to implement these improved protocols. Please feel free to contact me directly or to contact the principal at your child(ren)’s school.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Delgado, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Every Child, Every Day!